

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Original) A method for the selection of a virus comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a virus encoding and displaying a fusion polypeptide, said fusion polypeptide comprising a heterologous polypeptide inserted into the sequence of a viral coat protein polypeptide, wherein said virus comprises a cleavable site located within a displayed polypeptide;
 - (b) exposing the virus to a cleaving agent;
 - (c) propagating the virus comprising intact fusion protein.
2. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1 in wherein the cleavage site is located within the fusion polypeptide.
3. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 2 wherein after cleavage, the virus comprising uncleaved fusion polypeptide is separated from virus comprising cleaved fusion polypeptide.
4. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1 wherein cleavage impairs the ability of the polypeptide comprising the cleavage site to mediate the infection of the virus.
5. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein the virus encodes a repertoire of sequences.
6. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 5, wherein the repertoire of sequences encodes the displayed heterologous peptide or protein.
7. (Currently Amended) The A method according to any one of claims 5 or 6 in which the cleavable site is comprised within the repertoire of sequences.
8. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein a virus that is resistant to cleavage is propagated by infection.

9. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 8 in which a virus which is resistant to cleavage displays a folded protein or polypeptide.
10. (New) The method of claim 9 in which the cleavage is undertaken under conditions at which some members of the repertoire are at least partially unfolded.
11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the exposing step is undertaken in the presence of a molecule which stabilizes or destabilizes the displayed polypeptide.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the exposing step is undertaken in the presence of a protein denaturant.
13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the exposing step is undertaken in the presence of a ligand for the heterologous polypeptide.
14. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method permits isolation of a protein or polypeptide with improved stability.
15. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the repertoire of sequences encodes a repertoire of displayed proteins which are selected by binding to a ligand.
16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the virus is a bacteriophage.
17. (New) The method according to claim 16 in which the coat protein is that protein encoded by gene 3 of a filamentous bacteriophage.
18. (New) The method according to claim 17 in which a cleavage site is introduced between the second and third domain of the gene 3 protein.
19. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the bacteriophage is a helper bacteriophage used in conjunction with phagemids.
20. (New) The method according to claim 19 in which the encapsidated nucleic acid of the bacteriophage is a phagemid and requires the use of a helper bacteriophage.

Serial No.: 09/710,444

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cleavable site is a protease cleavable site, and the cleaving agent is a protease.